

Message Text

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21

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5053

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJECT: SYRIAN MEDIA COVERAGE OF SADAT VISIT TO U.S.

1. SUMMARY: SYRIAN MEDIA COVERAGE OF SADAT VISIT DWELLS
THEMES OF CONTINUED U.S. SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL, DISSATISFACTION
WITHIN EGYPT AND U.S. WITH SINAI AGREEMENT, AND PREDICTION
THAT VISIT WILL HAVE NO SUBSTANTIVE RESULTS. END SUMMARY.

2. ON EVE OF SADAT VISIT TO U.S. SYRIAN MEDIA PLAYED UP
DISSENSION OVER SINAI AGREEMENT WITHIN EGYPT AND CONTINUED
AMERICAN SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL. OCT. 25 PRESS REPORTED EGYPTAIN
"SECRET SECURITY ORGANS TIGHTENING GRIP ON COUNTRY" ON EVE
OF SADAT'S VISIT TO AMERICA, U.S. HAD REASSURED ISRAEL
EGYPT WOULD NOT RECEIVE ARMS FOR AT LEAST ONE YEAR.

3. SADAT'S ARRIVAL IN U.S. GENERATED REPORTS OF
DEMONSTRATIONS BY ARAB AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN OPPOSITION TO
SINAI AGREEMENT, STRICT SECURITY MEASURES IN EGYPT DURING
SADAT'S ABSENCE, U.S. PRESSURE ON VARIOUS UN MEMBERS TO CHANGE
THEIR POSITIONS ON ANTI-ZIONISM RESOLUTION, AND CLAIM
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THAT "VISIT REVEALS INACCURACY OF SADAT'S ALLEGATIONS --

EGYPTIAN REGIME WILL NOT OBTAIN ITS ARMS DEMANDS."
UNDER CAPTION "SADAT CALLS FOR INTERNATIONALIZATION OF
JERUSALEM AND SIGNING OF FINAL PEACE WITH ENEMY,"
AL-THAWRAH ARTICLE ASSERTED THAT SADAT'S READINESS TO COMPRO-

MISE ON THESE TWO ISSUES AMOUNTED TO DEVIATION
FROM PREVIOUSLY UNIFIED ARAB STANCE. SADAT'S CLAIM
THAT HE DID NOT COME TO U.S. WITH WEAPONS PURCHASE LIST
REFLECTED, ACCORDING TO THIS ARTICLE, FACT THAT ARMS
NO LONGER PRIORITY "FOLLOWING IMMOBILIZATION OF EGYPTIAN
FRONT." COLUMNIST IN OCT. 27 TISHRIIN TAUNTED SADAT ON
IMBALANCE BETWEEN DOLS. 2.3 BILLION AID FOR ISRAEL AND
DOLS. 250 MILLION AID TO EGYPT.

4. OCT. 29 PRESS REPORTED THAT PRES. FORD AND SADAT DID
NOT TOUCH ON SUBJECT ZIONISM DURING THEIR TALKS.
EARLY MORNING DAMASCUS RADIO NEWS NOTED AR AB DEMON-
STRATIONS IN U.S. AGAINST SADAT, ZIONISTS ' WELCOME OF
VISIT, AND EGYPTIAN ARMY OPPOSITION TO VISIT AS EVIDENCED
BY ABSENCE OF MILITARY OFFICER FROM HIS ENTOURAGE.
AL-THAWRAH OPINED THAT ISRAEL NOT WORRIED ABOUT FORD-SADAT
DISCUSSIONS, AND REFERRED TO WASHINGTON POST
EDITORIAL URGING AMERICANS TO AID ISRAEL BY
STRENGTHENING SADAT'S POSITION. AL-THAWRAH COLUMNIST
CASTIGATED EGYPTIAN REGIME FOR "ONCE AGAIN TAKING
UPON ITSELF RESPONSIBILITY TO ANNOUNCE DEMAND THAT
U.S. ARRANGE GOLAN DISENGAGEMENT, VIEW ARISING FROM
CONVICTION THAT WASHINGTON ALONE POSSESSES KEYS TO
SETTLING M.E. DISPUTE." HE CLAIMED EGYPTIANS MOTIVATED
BY DESIRE TO END THEIR ISOLATION IN ARAB WORLD FOLLOWING
CONCLUSION OF AGREEMENT, BUT ADDED THAT EGYPT WILL FIND
NO OTHER ALTERNATIVE THAN TO OFFER EVEN MORE CONCESSIONS.
ANOTHER COLUMNIST WROTE THAT SADAT FACED IMPASSE IN
WASHINGTON BECAUSE AMERICAN STRATEGY BASED ON COMPLETE
COMMITMENT TO ZIONISM.

5. LENGTHY DAMASCUS RADIO COMMENTARY OCT. 27 CLAIMED
"SADAT WANTS TO DO PLASTIC SURGERY ON UGLY U.S. FACE AND
THROW HIMSELF IN LAP OF UNCLE SAM. PRES. FORD WANTS TO
INSTALL SADAT AT HEAD OF ARAB WAVE OF SURRENDER. THESE
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ARE MAIN AIMS OF VISIT."

6. OCT. 30 PRESS IGNORED SADAT UN SPEECH THAT
DEMONSTRATION TOOK PLACE OUTSIDE UN WHILE HE WAS
DELIVERING IT IN PROTEST AGAINST SINAI ACCORD.
MURPHY

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